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# SEDITION

UNMASK'D and EXPLODED:

OR,

Reflections on the Seditious Designs of some Disaffected Persons to Ruin the present Happy Settlement of the Nation.

Licensed and Entred according to Order.

*H. Jan. 1689.*

**T**HE present Establishment in this State, was made with so much Peace and general Satisfaction among all sorts of *Protestants*, that no Man would guess but that it was done with the Universal Consent of the Nation: they seem'd passionately to desire it, as the only Security of the *Protestant Religion*, and their Native Liberty and Property; and accordingly, when obtain'd, they approved it with all the demonstrations of publick Joy and Triumph imaginable. None but the *Roman-Catholicks* were disgusted, *They* alone seem'd to labour under any discontent, or to repine at the late Revolution: And their dissatisfaction had thus much of excuse in it, That it was the genuine effect of their zeal for their Religion, which they apprehended was in danger of a total extirpation, since they had lost King *James*, whom they always esteem'd its invincible Patron and Protector. Hence it was, they could not behold the downfall of that unfortunate Monarch, without insupportable passion; having been all along transported with the most flourishing hopes of his rising Grandeur, and of seeing the *Roman Faith* propagated in these Nations, under the auspicious influence of his Reign: so that their sorrow and discontents admit of some Apology. The late Eclipse of King *James* his Lustre and Glory might well draw sighs from their hearts, and tears from their eyes, who were of his own Religion, and had for some time bask'd in the Sunshine of his Prosperity. Gratitude it self must needs prompt *them* to condole his misfortunes, whom he had warm'd with his Royal Favours. Grief and Compassion were but the due Attendants on their Master's Fall. They could do no less in Nature and Honour, than accompany the obscure Exit of

their once-glorious Sovereign with some sincere thoughts and resentments. All this was within the Verge of Nature and Humanity. But there is a Time and a Measure for all things. *Ne quid nimis*, was wholesome Advice. Men are not obliged to exhaust their Virals in unprofitable mourning for the loss of a Friend or Patron; neither had it been prudence in the *Roman Catholicks* by an unreasonable and long continued perverseness to have render'd themselves burdensome, and an eyesore to the rest of the Nation; and by a too passionate fondness for a lost Interest, to forfeit that which they might otherwise keep.

And yet, if this be not their fault, there are another sort of people in the Nation, who are guilty of it, a kind of Malecontents who go up and down, insinuating themselves into all Companies, and privately sowing the Seeds of Sedition in such tempers as they find flexible enough to receive them. These Men murmur at the present Posture of Affairs, whispering, *That all is illegal and unjustifiable; challenging their Superiours with the Deposition of their lawful Sovereign.* And casting invidious Reflections on the Government, they say, *That the Doctrine of Mariana the Spanish Jesuit is now practically translated into English; and that Men need not any longer be beholding to Rome for Dispensations and Absolutions, since in England every Man has found out the way to become his own Confessor, and can readily absolve himself from Oaths of Allegiance, &c.* Thus do they decant on the publick Conduct of the State, endeavouring to ferment their Disciples and Hearers into a belief that King *James* will shortly return with a powerful Army, and re-settle things on their right foundation. But, in my opinion, those who give credit to this kind of stuff, discover more Passion than Reason;

Reason, and a greater share of Credulity than of Wit or good Understanding. They take an estimate of things by the Great, without ballance or measure. They condemn or approve the Motions and Overtures of State in the lump, without examining and comparing the particular emergencies from whence they spring. Such as these are Men of short discourse, who frame their conceptions of Publick Affairs from their mere external Appearance; gazing on the outside of the Cabinet, they are dazzled, and behold not the Secret within. Such as these are fittest to be imposed on by the Incendiaries of the Nation, who are every where Caballing, and making Parties for the *French* King, under the Notion of being Friends to King *James*. A Notion which they would fain improve so far, as to persuade some easie men, That the Interest of the Church of *England* is involved with that of King *James*; as if the one could not subsist without the Restauration of the other. This is the old Artifice of Faction, to dress their Intrigues in the disguise of Religion; a successful way to gain on the softer part of Mankind. And he that suffers himself to be thus cajol'd, led by the Nose, and cull'd out of his Sense, so as not to discern a Snake in the Grass, deserves to be bit for a Remembrancer, and a caution, not to be catch'd in the same Noose again. Does not the Church of *England* flourish much more under the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, than it did under King *James*? Wherein has she been discountenanced, or injured? Or will these men pretend to more care for the Church of *England* than the Great Representative of the Nation? Are not the Lords and Commons now assembled in Parliament (for the major part) of that Communion? Was it not with their Advice and Consent the Regency was first committed to the then Prince of *Orange*? who afterwards was Crowned King of *England*, &c. A Prince whose Character surpasses the highest Rhetorick of Fame! A Prince, whose more than Royal Virtues charm the World, and bespeak him another *Titus Vespasian*, *Deliciae humani generis*. It is needless to examine or prove his Title to the Imperial Crown of these Realms. That has been performed by more accurate and judicious Pens. It is sufficient that He with His Royal Consort Queen *Mary*, are in

actual possession of the Throne. We use to say, That Possession is eleven Points of the Law; and had he no other pretensions of Right and Title, yet the Unanimous Consent of the Nation, with which he was invested with the *Regalia*, may well make up the twelfth. His Mild and Indulgent Government renders Him beloved at home; and His active Resolution and Conduct against *France* procures and confirms to Him Potent Allies abroad. Only *Lewis* the XIVth opposes Him without, and the bigotted Faction of *Lewis* here, malign and undermine Him within His Dominions. This restless Faction being baffled in their former Methods, have no other Stratagem left, but sweetening the People with Panegyrics on King *James*; Lectures on the present Interest of the Church of *England*, and fine Harangues on the Generosity of the *French* King: endeavouring to persuade them, That ere long King *James* will return, and claim his own, and that he will find innumerable Friends to side with him. By this means they prevail upon some easie Natures, and flatter themselves with a greater increase of Profelytes. Whereas, Supposing such a thing should come to pass as the landing of King *James*, yet, considering the general hatred which the *English* bear to the *French*, it seems to me as easie for the *Grand Signior* with forty or fifty thousand *Turks* to conquer these Nations, as for King *James* to be restored by an Army of Men, whom all the *English* esteem their mortal Enemies. Besides, if the *Irish*, (who are of their own Religion) having lately experienced the *French* Integrity, grow weary of those their new Patrons and most Chriitian Taskmasters, and thereupon a considerable part of the Army have deserted King *James*; you may be assured the *English* (a People of much more refined Wits, and of contrary Interests to the *French*) will take care to prevent their Encroachments and Tyranny, by not resorting to him at his Landing. To conclude, there is no medium between *Liberty* and *Slavery*. The One will be preserved, by opposing the *French*, and serving King *William* and the present Government; the Other will be introduced by our Divisions, and Revolt to the *French*, though mask'd with the plausible pretext of serving King *James*.